

Volume 4  
October 3-9, 2007



Home of the Eagles



A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR  
DCS FAMILY AND FRIENDS

CARPE AETERNITAS  
SEIZE ETERNITY

## Teachers Off To "School"

While our students are enjoying a two-day break this Thursday and Friday, our teachers will be attending our annual Association of Christian School International (ACSI) Teachers' Conference held at the Portland Convention Center and designed to promote the professional growth of our staff. While at the conference, teachers and staff will attend three general sessions entitled *The Nature of Kids*, *The Nature of Growing*, and

*The Nature of Daily Living*. In addition, there are dozens of specialty break-out seminars dealing with the myriad of topics and issues related to school life. Teachers are able to earn Continuing Education Units (CEU) for their participation in this event.

During the break times, attendees are able to shop in the vendors' section with booths catering to the spe-

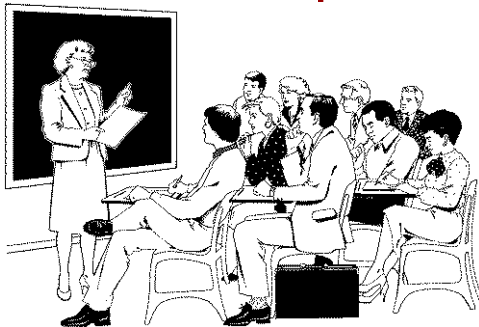
cific needs of education. Books, resource materials, teaching tools, and more are there to provide added tools for the teachers. We are thankful for the generous gift from our *Scrip* program which enables our teachers to purchase items for their classrooms. Got *Scrip*!?

## RenWeb Tips

Our site-based administrative package, *RenWeb*, is a wonderful tool for parents and teachers. For the teachers, it allows them to enter grades throughout the quarter which automatically produces an end-of-the-grading period final percentage and grade and a completed report card. For the parents, it enables them to track their children's progress on a regular basis. It is a win-win situation for all. But there are some limitations.

Our kindergarten program does not use *RenWeb* due to its unique structure and needs. As **Mrs. Thompson** shared with her first grade parents, she will not be entering grades on a regular basis until later in the quarter to allow her students to make the adjustment to first grade work. Other DCS teachers are expected to enter at least two grades per subject per week. For some, they may enter more than two grades during a given

(Continued on page 2)



## McTeacher's Night

Monday, October 22nd, 5-8 PM ~ Mark your calendar with the above date and join us at the Damascus McDonalds as DCS teachers and staff gear up to serve you. Come see our staff in a role totally different from their day jobs - taking food orders, flipping hamburgers, cooking fries, pouring drinks, serving ice cream, cleaning tables, and greeting customers. This is a fun way to serve our community and our families. Hope to see you at the Damascus McDonalds Monday, October 22nd, anytime between 5 and 8 PM. A portion of the night's proceeds are given to DCS. You'll be lovin' it!

## Kid-Friendly Web Site

While looking over a recent copy of "Answers" magazine in the library, I learned of a safe new web site for kids. It is [www.kidsanswers.org](http://www.kidsanswers.org). I looked it over, and it has a variety of interactive science activities for kids to enjoy. Check it out!

## Used Book Sale Coming

Just a few days left to donate books for the used book sale to raise funds for World Vision. The sale will be Tues. Oct. 9 all day in the Library. Prices will be 50 cents to \$1. Kids will have an opportunity to shop, so please allow them to bring a little spending money. Adults are also welcome, and we do have a good supply of adult books to offer. But in order to have a successful sale, we would really appreciate many more donations.

## In this issue



**This and That**  
**Check it out!**

Teachers off to School	1
This and That	1
RenWeb	1
Outdoor School	2
Grandparents' Day	2
DCHS Junior Eagle Scout	2

(Continued from page 1) RenWeb Tips

week. Some choose to enter their grades on Friday (or some other day of the week). For teachers with classes only on Tuesday and Thursday or Monday, Wednesday, Friday, there most likely will not be two grades per week entered. For five-day a week classes, there may be times when two grades are not entered – during extended research projects, group work, reports, shorter school week, etc.

Our goal is the two grades per week per subject. We do want to keep you informed as to the progress of your child. But there may be times when a teacher does not record two grades, either because of similar scenarios mentioned above or they simply get over-extended. Please extend grace during those times. We will do our best to stay on top of this situation and to keep you abreast of student progress. Thank you for your understanding and patience.

## Outdoor School Highlight For Sixth Grade

October 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, our sixth graders will be leaving the confines of their classroom for the great out-of-doors and three days of hands-on learning that we call Outdoor School. This year, **Mrs. Chesney's** class is headed to the Oregon coast. Calling the Twin



Rocks Conference Center "home", they will take daily excursions exploring tidal pools and beaches, forests, the Tillamook County Museum, the Oregon Aquarium, climb the Astor Column and of course, enjoy fresh ice cream at the Tillamook Cheese Factory. Each sixth grader will be busy recording, by written word and picture, their findings in their Outdoor School Journal. Along the way, they will make numerous stops to learn about Oregon's wonderful natural and cultural history. Evenings are spent around the campfire (weather permitting) singing, sharing, and looking into God's Word.

**Mr. Hayley**, DCHS science expert, is the resource teacher, aided and assisted by Mrs. Chesney, six DCHS student counselors, two DCS Mom cooks (**Mrs. Wade** and **Mrs. Osborne**) and DCS Dad bus driver **Dave Wakefield**. We are so thankful for our parent volunteers who step in to give oversight to the various jobs that need to be done to enhance and expand our regular class offerings. Thanks too, to Estacada Christian Church for the use of their bus.

Please pray for safety and a wonderful time as our sixth graders learn first-hand about God's beautiful, creative, purposeful design in nature.

## Grandparents' Day October 19th

One of the highlights of fall at DCS is Grandparents' Day. Friday, October 19th, 10:30 AM until noon, our campus is alive with dozens and dozens of **Grandparents** who come to see

their kindergarten through sixth grade grandchildren in action. The morning begins in the auditorium with special class presentations and gifts to various



categories of grandparents (Who has traveled the farthest? Who has the most grandchildren at DCS?, etc.). Following our general session, the grandparents fan out to visit their grandchild's classroom where they are able to see first-hand what we do and how we do it. In fact, many grandparents participate in class activities.

Please contact your child's grandparents about this exciting event. If they are not able to attend, please have a stand-in ready to go; it is important that each DCS student have a representative present. This could be a trusted neighbor, aunt, uncle, or other friend.

There will be more information coming and special invitations. **Mark the date – Friday, October 19th, 10:30 AM until noon. The entire school will close at noon on that day.**

## DCHS Junior Completes Eagle Scout Project



**J. Nielsen**, DCHS 11th grader and son of **Leland** and **Jo Nielsen**, decided on building a gazebo for the WorldView Center, a multicultural Christian cooperative that the Institute for International Christian Communication runs in SE Portland. J's reason for choosing the project for the Center? "It is a place that definitely puts others first, and I think that people who put others first should have others do things for them as well."

J. and his Dad designed the 8-by-8 foot structure. After getting approval from the Eagle Scout advisers, J. proceeded on the project. This was no easy task. Materials included cedar lumber, cement, shovels, rakes, hammers, electric screw drivers, wheelbarrows, a laser level, tape measures, determination, patience, and hard work. "At the beginning of it, you see it as... something you don't know if you will be able to complete. There are so many things on your list. But when you finally get to the point we are now, it is amazing to look back at all the steps you had to take," said J. He went on to add, "I had a lot of people praying for me – my friends at school and my family. When you struggle with things, you look toward **God** more because you feel you cannot do it on your own, and He uses things like this to remind us He is there."

J's concluding thoughts? "That is what happens when you get pushed out of your comfort zone and that is what the Eagle Scout project is all about." Congratulations J!

Thanks too, to **Comelia Seigneur**, The Oregonian writer for Clackamas County for her interview with J Nielsen.